Comprehensive Examination

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“It is amazing to me how in all the hoopla and debate these days about the decline of education in the US we ignore the most fundamental of its causes. Our students have changed radically. Today’s students are no longer the people our educational system was designed to teach.” Prensky, M. (October, 2001)p.1 I agree with Mr. Prensky. All too often our students have to power down when they come to school. In our district, despite the advances we have made with technology, we still have teachers using the tools they are given as a glorified chalk board. Throughout this course I have tried to help my co-workers see the importance of using technology and provide support for those willing to implement new technologies into their classroom.

**Position and Leadership Goals**

**Position Goal**

I recently accepted a new position as the K-5 Science Facilitator for our district and a requirement of the position was that I hold a master’s degree. Due to my interest in technology and its uses in the classroom, I wanted a degree that would allow me to better serve my district and subject area through the implementation of technology. An added benefit is that it would allow me to earn credentials to possibly pursue a technology position in a school district as an alternative career choice of the future.

**Leadership Goal**

I was raised to be an involved member of the community and have used this experience to be a leader in my chosen profession. I have always had an interest in technology, at one time actually majoring in computer science, before switching to education. I have been the person that my colleagues come to when they have technology issues. The technology technicians in our district have helped me to further my knowledge so that I can be a “go to” person on our campus. This has saved them much time and allowed me to use and improve my skills. I hope that through this degree I will be able to find a teacher technology specialist position in the future. Recently my job responsibilities have changed to include teaching a class. I hope to be able to implement many of the technology strategies that I have learned so that I can give firsthand knowledge to teachers on how to best use technology in their classrooms.

I plan on studying for a Technology Applications Certification and possibly a principal certification. Adding these two additional certifications should help me to procure a job as a technology specialist someday.

My current position has helped me hone my leadership skills. Our district has also requested that I facilitate several committees to help improve district procedures. I will continue to seek professional development that will enhance my leadership skills as well as help with my technology implementation knowledge.

It is important to me to work well with others and help when and however I can. Our district has a long way to go in order to help our students reach their full potential. I want to provide an example as well as be a resource for teachers who wish to learn more about technology strategies that are conducive to student success.

References

Prensky, M. (2001). Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants: Part1. *On the Horizon*, 9(5)1-6.